

1 Sept 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

How you think about things makes a difference

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Education, Training / Attitudes. Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 7 Offenders, 1 Police, 2 Prison Staff & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I got breached for spending the night at my son's house. They expected me to be staying with my wife but she's used to her own space after so long on her own. It's hard to bond with family when you've been away so long. My son has got married and had a child whilst I've been in prison."
(Offender)

"Sometimes your family can enable you to death. They can cosset you to death. My family think it is ok for me to have a drink but I know I can't ever drink. They don't understand the illness."
(Offender)

"It's good to have support of a family but there's loving support and then knowledgeable support. Your family is not always able to give you the level of support you need where a hostel can."
(Prison Staff)

Uninformed support from your family can be a negative thing.

You have to work on your relationship with your family when you've been in prison.

If you have more understanding about your negative experiences, it can prevent you from becoming bitter.

"I've done everything I can this time. I had to do loads of courses, although I couldn't do the ones I needed as the prison didn't offer them. I've kept in touch with my probation officer, I've been writing to her regularly but have been told to stop pestering them. Still I'm not going to let it get to me. I'll do what I need to do even if my mates say I'm a suck a**e."
(Offender)



"You've got to feel sorry for probation. I've been reading up on all the legislation that is landing on them from above and they're snowed under."
(Offender)

"I'm back on a recall. I'm trying to understand why so I can work with the system. If I don't I'll end up leaving bitter and twisted."
(Offender)

"It's important that you hear this. I know you're back inside on a recall but it was circumstances not a new crime. You stayed out longer than before and you did really well while you were out. Your accommodation providers were impressed with your attitude and would have you back again. You need to see how much progress you made and stay positive."
(Agency)

"Blimey, you've changed your attitude since the last session!"
(Offender)

"The trouble is, prison changes you no matter what you say. You're not the same person your family loved and they expect you to be."
(Offender)

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue brings Bournemouth offenders together in open conversation with the agencies responsible for their supervision and support. Dialogues are themed on the issues affecting re-offending. The process starts in custody and continues post-release in the community, emphasising support, challenge, responsibility and early intervention. Threshold Dialogue is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.